

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
 Sunday, September 1, 2019; St. John Cantius Polish Festival, 906 College Avenue: Mary Franczak Salamon, age 96, enjoys the festival in her old school building. Franczak Salamon says she is a 1938 graduate of St. John Cantius School.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Metro West and partners invite media to a conversation regarding comprehensive planning for Clark Fulton area

by Bruce Checefsky

Ward 14 Councilwoman Jasmin Santana assured reporters at a September 17th meeting held at the South Branch of the Cleveland Public Library that she was very excited about the MetroHealth project and its positive impact on Ward 14. The meeting was organized on behalf of Metro West Community Development Organization and Councilwoman Santana, The City of

Cleveland, The MetroHealth System and The Cleveland Foundation. Media representatives were invited to discuss the unprecedented, collaborative process to revitalize the Clark-Fulton neighborhood.

"We hope to have an energetic dialogue with the public and we want the media to be a partner in our effort," the invitation stated.

Director of City Planning Freddy Collier and representatives from The

MetroHealth System, The Cleveland Foundation and LAND Studio, as well as Ms. Santana and Ricardo León, Executive Director of Metro West Community Development Corporation were present at the meeting.

Local media was represented by reporters from Plain Press and Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Ward 14 City Council Representative Santana began by describing her journey living in Ward 14 for 27 years with her husband and two children. Her story included life in a neighborhood where resources are limited, historically disenfranchised, with no parks or business to service the Latino community. Her passionate plea to stay in the neighborhood to build those amenities into the fabric of the community is the reason why she continues to advocate for the rights of longtime and new residents. She stressed that residents could create change and make a difference.

"We're getting investments in our neighborhood and it's an exciting time for change," she said. "We have a population of 23,000; our medium household income is \$23,000 per family. 43% of families live below poverty. We have no safe or healthy parks, no recreation or wellness centers. We have high levels of lead poisoning in our homes, a high rate of crime, and we're a virtual food desert."

With investments from MetroHealth that might change, she suggested.

"The neighborhood is becoming a place where people are coming continued on page 5



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
 Monday, September 2, 2019; St. Rocco Italian Festival, 3205 Fulton Road: Joe Bucci serves up Italian sausages.

Residents & stakeholders weigh in on Lincoln Heights Land Use Study

by Bruce Checefsky

Residents and stakeholders of the Lincoln Heights Block Club (LHBC) met with staff members of both the City Planning Commission and Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC), as well as members of the Seventh Hill design team to discuss a planned land use study for their neighborhood. The August 22nd meeting was held at the Tremont Tap House on Scranton and Starkweather. The Lincoln Heights Block Club service area extends along both sides of Scranton Road from I-490 to Fairfield Road. Landmark buildings included in the target area for the land use study include the Nestle Building on the east side of W. 25th Street; the Animal Protective League on Willey Avenue; the Fairmont Creamery on W. 17th; and the Tremont Tap House, Wagner Awning, the Tappan, and Scranton Elementary along Scranton Road.

"Our hope is to have a broad range of feedback from the community," said consultant David Jurca, former associate director at Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collective (CUDC), and founder/

principal at Seventh Hill, the urban design firm hired by Tremont West Development Corporation to conduct the Lincoln Heights Land Use Study. "We want to get an honest representation of the neighborhood, and Tremont, and follow through on the engagement process that is fun and interesting. Ultimately, we're interested in honest feedback to help produce a plan that everyone can see themselves in whether you're a business owner, recent resident, or full-time resident."

Seventh Hill is a design consultancy dedicated to transforming people and places through measurable experiences, according to Jurca, by combining urban design expertise with tailored evaluation tools to help clients achieve their desired outcomes. Past projects with the CUDC have included COLDSCAPES: Design Ideas for Winter Cities, a book filled with small and large scale projects intended to ignite a creative spark in winter cities; Making Our Own Space (MOOS), an award-winning

continued on page 7

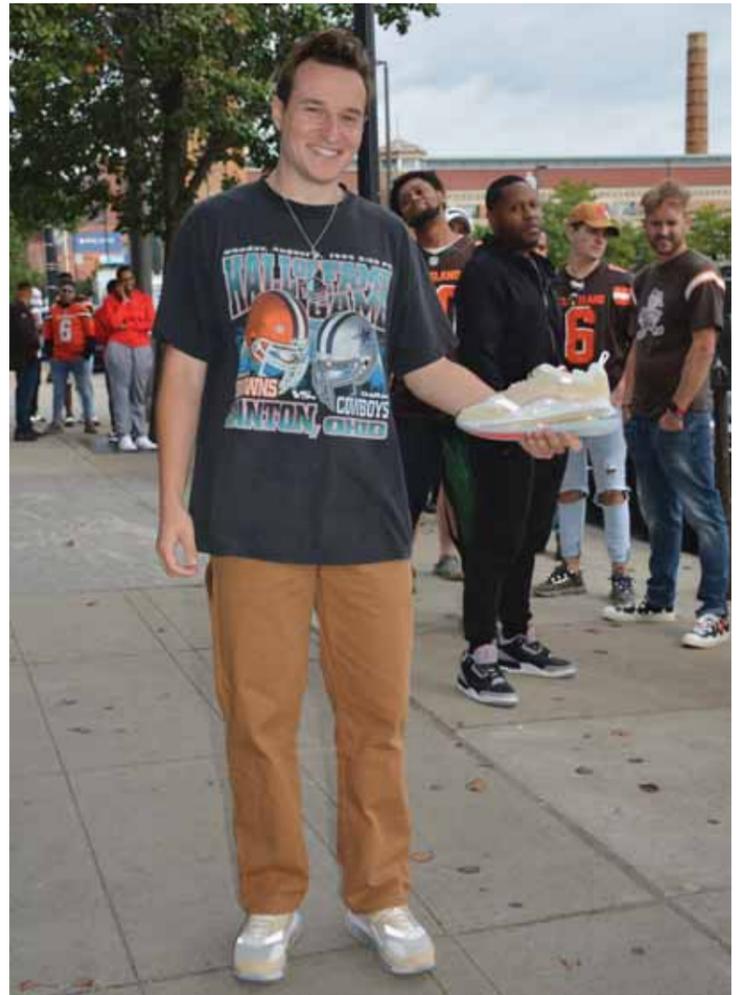


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
 Sunday, September 8, 2019; Xhibition, 2068 W. 25th: Jake Damasiewicz, an employee at Xhibition, holds up one of Odell Beckham Jr.'s latest Nike shoes, an "Air Max 720 'Young King of the People'". Damasiewicz says Xhibition was chosen to release the shoe three and a half hours before anywhere else "because it's the best Nike store in Cleveland." Behind Damasiewicz are forty people waiting in line for the store's scheduled 9:30 a.m. opening. Keith Brooks, first in line, says he arrived at 4 a.m. Brooks said because they were bringing something to the city of Cleveland by releasing the shoe first here, and he wanted to offer his support. Second in line behind Brooks (in a Browns' shirt), Thyrii Butler, said he plans to buy some shoes and head to a tailgate party.

Steps needed to protect current residents as investments target Clark Fulton neighborhood

by Chuck Hoven

The Clark Fulton neighborhood will be the target area for a number of initiatives that could flood the

NEWS ANALYSIS

neighborhood with investment dollars aimed at a variety of projects.

The initiatives hold the promise of investments that include new hospital buildings, new parks, new continued on page 4



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR
 Sunday, August 25, 2019; Ice Cream Social Celebrating 150 years of the Ursuline Sisters serving as teachers at both Malachi School and Urban Community School, St. Malachi School building, 2459 Washington Avenue: Bottom Row (L-R): Sister Mary Kay Conkey, Sister Francis Borgia, Sister Martha Owen; Middle Row: Reverend Thomas Mahoney, Sister Susan Durkin, Sister Rose Elizabeth Terrell, Sister Roberta Goebel; Top Row: Sister Susan Zion, Sister Beverly Anne LoGrasso, Sister Maureen Doyle, and Sister Ursula Marie.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, September 20, 2019; Catholic Students for Peace and Justice Climate Strike for Our Common Home: This student's sign reads "Make the earth cool again." He was one of about 100 students from area Catholic High Schools to march from La Sagrada Familia Church on Detroit Avenue to Edgewater Park carrying signs and shouting out appeals to save the earth.

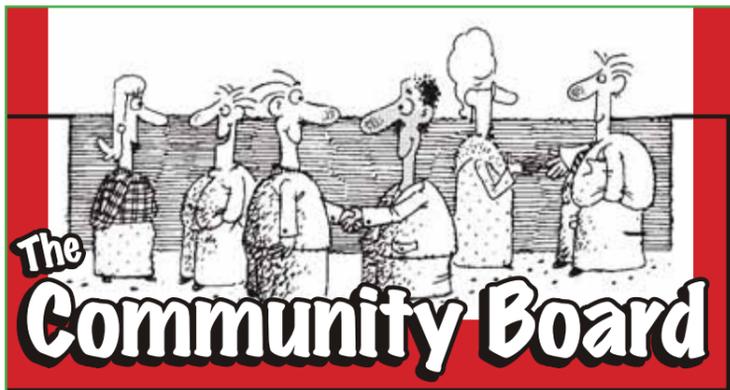
ARTS/MUSIC/THEATRE
MUSIC IN SACRED SPACE MUSIC SERIES at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, Lorain Ave at West Blvd, Sunday, October 27 at 4 p.m. Buck McDaniel, Concert Organist and the 2018-19 Kulas Composer Fellow at Cleveland Public Theatre, will play works by J.S. Bach, Oliver Messiaen, Florence Price, Nadia Boulanger, Philip Glass and Buck McDaniel. Free will offering.
78TH STREET STUDIOS, 1300 W. 78th Street. Art Opening for over 50 studios and galleries every 3rd Friday of every month, 5-9 p.m. 78streetstudios.com. At 78th Street Studios on **Friday October 18th Artists of Art House**: Art Teaches, celebrate the important contributions made by the artists who have worked with Art House to enrich the lives of residents in the Greater Cleveland area. FREE

CLEVELAND HISTORY
ORAL HISTORIES - FREEDOM DAY 1964: 92% of the Black students participated in a boycott of the Cleveland Public Schools on April 20, 1964. Were you one of them? Document your story! Inspire the next generation of leaders and history makers who will use video, audio and other multimedia research tools to document and share this radical Cleveland history. Contact Dr. Anne Galletta at a.galletta@csuohio.edu or 216-687-4581 if interested in sharing your story.

COMMUNITY
NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY PRACTICE GRAND OPENING of new health center at 3545 Ridge Road, October 3, 4-6 p.m. Ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. Fun kid friendly celebration – raffles, giveaways, balloon creations and more.
HISPANIC ROUNDTABLE invites the entire community to Convención Hispania on Saturday, October 5 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Max Hayes High School, 2211 W. 65th. Free event includes free health screenings, civic and educational issues, food, music, activities for children and fun for entire family. Keynote speaker will be Puerto Rican singer, musician and composer José Feliciano.

EDUCATION
COLLEGE NOW Greater Cleveland on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Carnegie West Branch Library, 1900 Fulton Road: College Now assists adults with student loan debt, starting a degree program, returning to college to finish a degree, finding scholarships, financial aid and much more. Contact CoLean Williams, Adult Programs Specialist, to schedule an appointment: CWilliams@collegenowgc.org 216.635.0182.

EMPLOYMENT
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU employment recruiter will be at the Carnegie West Branch Library, 1900 Fulton, on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Recruiting Assistant John Wagner will provide information and an-



The Plain Press Community Board is a listing of a variety of free activities and resources for neighborhoods served by the Plain Press. The printing of the Community Board is sponsored by Organize! Ohio through donations from readers and supporters.

swer questions about current, local, part-time job opportunities with the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau offers great pay and hours to fit your schedule.

FOOD
FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION: MetroHealth and Cleveland Food Bank offer free produce Distribution from 10 a.m. – Noon on Tuesdays October 15 at the Outpatient Pavilion (first floor, near pharmacy) at MetroHealth Medical Center, 2500 MetroHealth Drive. Patients, community members or anyone in need of fresh food can stop by for a bag of produce. Just bring your ID (driver's license, state ID card, etc.) and your own bags.

HEALTH
TRI-C PREVENTIVE CARE at Metro Campus provides low-cost health care services to uninsured or underinsured adults while giving students valuable learning opportunities. Open 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays through No-

ember 21. Located in Room 105 of the Health Careers and Sciences building at Metro Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. To schedule a visit or find out about special health-related workshops, call 216-987-3555. For more information visit www.tri-c.edu/carecenter.

REUNION
ST. AUGUSTINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REUNION for all former staff and students. The reunion will be held on Sunday, October 13, 2019 at St. Augustine Church, 2486 W. 14th Street. The day will begin with Mass at 10 AM followed by brunch and fellowship and plenty of memories. For cost and more information contact Bob Duda at (216) 781-5530 x 31 or email rw_duda@ccdoacle.org.

VOLUNTEERS
CASA of Cuyahoga County, a program of Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County, needs volunteers to advocate for children who have been neglected and

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abused. CASAs are everyday citizens appointed by the Court to advocate for and represent the children's best interests. CASAs are trained to investigate, facilitate, advocate, and monitor one or two cases at a time to help the Court make the best decision for a safe, caring, and permanent home for children involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. If interested in becoming a CASA, visit cfadvocates.org or call 216.443.3377 for more information.

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Lincoln Heights Land Use Planning discussion continues

by Bruce Checefsky

In the basement of St. Augustine's Walsh Hall on September 9th, under a flickering fluorescent light and hum of air conditioning, there was talk about tearing out the old rug and refinishing the wood floors. The Lincoln Heights Block Club was about to get under way with their September meeting. Fewer residents than usual were there.

Following an update by Lt. Bently on the City of Cleveland's plan to install 1,000 LED cameras throughout the city to curtail crime, and TRI-C's announcement of a renewed tax levy this November, the heart of the discussion at the meeting was a recap on a meeting that took place last month at the Tremont Tap House on the Lincoln Heights Land Use plan. "Reaching Lincoln Heights", part of the Lincoln Heights Land Use Plan, was initiated by Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) and funded by casino revenues allocated to the project by Councilman McCormack. Seventh Hill consultants have been reportedly paid \$10,000 for the study that is expected to be complete by December 2019.

Lincoln Heights Block Club Chairperson Henry Senyak attended the Tremont Tap House event and reported that steps were made to identify the needs of residents and address potential hurdles to overcome issues of parking, increased population density, and attracting small businesses, to name a few.

"People are concerned about large development projects," said Senyak. "We need to engage the consultants and participate in the public meetings."

Increased property taxes were discussed, with residents continu-

ing to express their concerns over tax abatement and the likelihood that some longtime residents of the community may be forced to sell their property because their property taxes double or tripled, according to Senyak.

The Longtime Owner Occupants Program (LOOP), sometimes referred to as Gentrification Relief, was offered as an idea to assist residents with property taxes. The City of Philadelphia enacted LOOP in 2014 to protect longtime homeowners from abrupt rises in home valuations. Philadelphia City Council passed a bill in 2016 which assists homeowners whose property assessments increased by 50%, or more. Participants must also fall within income limits, and meet length of home ownership requirements.

The City of Cleveland has no plans to enact LOOP or assist residents with tax relief.

Adam Waldbaum, President, Solo Development, took the floor of the block club meeting to express his concerns over displacing residents from the neighborhood.

"I had a plan for development in the neighborhood, then I came to the TWDC Steering Committee meeting and heard about the Lincoln Heights plan which, to me, didn't sound like a Lincoln Heights plan but more like a Tremont West Development plan," he said. "I'm concerned about the parking and community displacement. If you choose not to sell your property, and your taxes go up, that's a big issue for me."

Waldbaum felt troubled about some of the meetings he attended over the past weeks, according to him.

"The Steering Committee clearly has an agenda," he added. "They've been told by TWDC what the plan is going to be. My biggest battle right now is not with Lincoln Heights Block Club, not the City Planning Department or the Land Bank; it's the density driven agenda from TWDC. I don't like the plan. I don't think it's good."

Senyak asked for more clarity on the density issue. Waldbaum assured residents that he was mainly interested in smaller projects.

"I see 25 to 30-unit buildings, some town homes, some singles, 1,100 and 1,800 square foot buildings. This is my vision. Increase retail along West 25th Street," he said.

The discussion shifted to the ongoing disagreement between Tremont West Development Corporation and Lincoln Heights Block Club over voting rights and issues of self-governance.

Whether those issues will be resolved is yet to be seen, according to Senyak.

"Councilman McCormack supports this block club," he said. "He believes we have a right to self-govern and create our own bylaws. We should be receiving the same services as every other block club receives, which includes postcard notifications, printing our monthly narrative in the TWDC newspaper, and providing staff to help us run this block club."

Tremont West Development Corporation maybe trying to start a new block club in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood, independent of the existing block club, as a way to circumvent the ongoing disagreement, according to Senyak.

Cory Riordan, Executive Director of Tremont West Development Corporation, was asked by the Plain Press to respond to allegations that he plans to go create a new block club rather than reach a compromise.

In an email reply, Riordan stated,

"Tremont West has not attempted to create a new block club in the Lincoln Heights area. At the moment, we are focused on Reaching Lincoln Heights, a land use plan for the neighborhood."

Councilman McCormack did not respond to requests for a comment.

Residents with stories about Cleveland Public Power shutoffs or bills urged to attend public meeting on October 10th

by Jacie Jones

Have you experienced electricity shutoffs or had trouble paying your bills with Cleveland Public Power (CPP)? Many Clevelanders are reporting electric shutoffs without receiving adequate notice, without being offered a reasonable payment plan, or have had their electric shut off despite a medical necessity.

End Poverty NOW Cleveland, a coalition of 22 grassroots groups working to address issues of poverty, is holding a public hearing on CPP shutoff problems. The public hearing is Thursday October 10th, 2019 6:30 – 8:00 pm. at St. Paul's Community Church, 4427 Franklin Blvd. Cleveland. Registration and refreshments begin at 6:00 p.m.

City Council members along with a representative from Cleveland Public Power are expected to be present at the hearing.

Often times people have no choice but to use Cleveland Public Power, but with rising electricity costs and the controversial additional charge that can double the bill, more and more people are having difficulty paying their bills.

This additional charge is not for the electricity that you use.

Having your power shutoff can result in eviction, medical problems, and health concerns, especially for vulnerable populations.

Cleveland Public Power does not currently abide by the same standards as private energy companies in the area, leaving a lack of accountability that private utilities must abide by.

Many people at risk of experiencing a shutoff are not eligible for the same programs as those who are customers of a private utility such as First Energy. This creates a public health and human rights concern.

We want you to share your stories about Cleveland Public Power and need your participation to help advocate for more just shutoff policies. If you or anyone you know has experienced an unfair shutoff, we want to hear from you!

If you have an experience to share at the public hearing or have any questions, please contact us by email at jacie@organizeohio.org or delaney@organizeohio.org, or by phone at (216) 651-2606.

Architectural historian points out errors in article on Lorain Avenue History

To the Editor:

I am writing to point out numerous errors in the "A Look at Lorain Avenue while traveling down memory lane" article, written by Kevin Coleman, identified in the *Plain Press* as a Cleveland State University journalism student.

In this article, the writer claims that the "statues" on the Hope Memorial Bridge are made of limestone quarried in Berea. This is utterly absurd. There were no limestone quarries in Berea, or anywhere within hundreds of miles of Berea. Most importantly, those "statues" are constructed of sandstone (there were MANY sandstone quarries in Berea).

LETTER

There are several errors in the paragraphs pertaining to the Cleveland Christian Home for Children. (1) According to a 1901 newspaper article, it was founded in 1901, not 1900. (2) It was located on Broadway near Barkwill (which is near East 55th), not Broadway and Aetna (which is near East 71st). (3) Its founder's name was Rudolph Timme, not Henry Timme (his middle-initial was H., so perhaps that was his middle-name). (4) According to a Cleveland newspaper article published in 1904, Reverend Timme

sold the orphanage to the Cleveland Disciple Union in 1902 and it was they, not him, who were in control when it relocated to Lorain Avenue. (5) Elsewhere in this article, the writer claims that there was a renovation "in the early 1920s" of the home they acquired in 1906. He also writes about the construction of a new building in 1924 (the one still in use today). According to a 1924 newspaper article, the opening of this new home was immediately followed by the demolition of the older home that he claims they had just renovated. No one renovates when they know they're going to destroy shortly thereafter what they would have just renovated. At most, perhaps there were a few minor repairs to address some issues of safety. The construction of the present building in 1924 is correct.

Further in this article, the writer

claims that the City of Cleveland's Storefront Renovation Program began in 2015. Many *Plain Press* readers will immediately know that this can't be correct. I am sure the program has been mentioned countless times in the pages of the *Plain Press*, well before 2015. I have an acquaintance that is one of the principals of that department and, when I spoke with him about this, he guaranteed me that the program was begun in the 1970s. He was hired to be a staff person in that program in the late-1970s. Consequently, the writer's claim that this program is responsible for "over 70 projects to date throughout Cleveland" is an under-statement on an unfathomable scale. They most likely are involved in that many projects in just one year.

Craig Bobby
Architectural Historian



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PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANKLIN CIRCLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
The Congregation of Franklin Circle Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1688 Fulton Road, celebrated the ordination Rev. Richard James Hinkelman on Sunday, September 15, 2019.

+ In Memory +

Father Lucjan Stokowski

March 27, 1951- August 10, 2019

The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland reported that vespers were held at St. John Cantius Church on August 19th for Father Lucjan Stokowski, age 68, who died on August 10th. Father Stokowski served as pastor of St. John Cantius Church. Stokowski came to Cleveland from Poland in 1980. He served at St. John Cantius Parish in the early 1980s, and after a number of assignments elsewhere, was named pastor of St. John Cantius in the year 2000. Fr. Stokowski also served as administrator at St. Barbara Parish from August 31, 2007 to July 1, 2018 when he retired.

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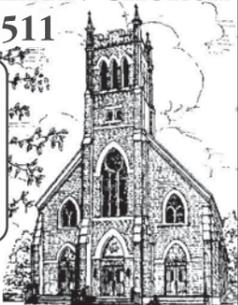
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AND BY APPOINTMENT

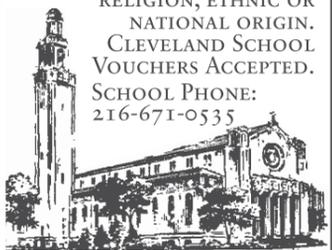
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NOBLE would like to hear about your experience with the Ohio Benefits System

Have you had any issues applying for Medicaid, food stamps or cash assistance? Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE), an organization that focuses on state budget issues as it relates to health and human services with the hopes of improving the system, has created a survey to better understand the Ohio Benefits System and the impact it has on users.

In 2018, the state of Ohio transferred food- and cash-assistance, Woman Infants and Children assistance (WIC), special needs assistance, work, childcare, unemployment insurance, etc., cases to a processing system known as Ohio Benefits, which previously handled only Medicaid cases.

Developing a single, mammoth system for the major public-benefits programs was part of a long-term plan by the state to streamline and modernize the way Ohioans apply

for and receive aid.

Trying to automate how an Ohioan can apply for and receive human-services benefits is enormously complex. That helps explain some of the issues that have arose since its inception, but does not excuse the serious issues that Ohioans are experiencing while trying to utilize the new automated system. The system has made it harder for eligible Ohioans to obtain and continue to receive food assistance and it has been linked to declining Medicaid enrollment in Ohio.

Ohio's Medicaid enrollment has declined more than 8% in the past two years, raising questions about whether the more than 250,000 former beneficiaries have become uninsured or found other health coverage.

Medicaid Director Maureen Corcoran suggests enrollment has declined because of an improving

economy, as well as "systems issues," including a sometimes-clumsy computerized renewal process that beneficiaries must complete every year to maintain coverage.

Health policy analysts suggest a better economy may be contributing to, but cannot account for, such a sharp decline. They believe the primary cause is the Ohio Benefits system, which has drawn federal scrutiny. They suggest that along with the time-consuming sign-up and renewal process, drops may be reflective of another culprit, a reduction in enrollment assistance.

NOBLE would like to hear from you what the truth really is! If you or someone that you know has used the Ohio Benefits system in the last year for healthcare, childcare, food and cash benefits, etc., and would like to participate in the survey, please contact NOBLE's organizer Brittney Madison at 330-571-3333.

Visit the Plain Press website at:

https://plainpress.blog

CLARK FULTON

continued from page one

housing, new businesses and a new high school.

While the investments hold the promise of many amenities current residents would like to see in their neighborhood, will many of the current residents be able to stay if the new development results in skyrocketing property taxes for homeowners, or higher monthly rent for those who are renting their homes? What kinds of protections can be put in place to assure that current residents can afford to remain in their neighborhood as the development progresses?

Some of the initiatives that will bring investments into the Clark Fulton neighborhood include: designation of the Clark Fulton neighborhood as a target area of Mayor Frank Jackson's Transformation Initiative; MetroHealth Medical Center's campus transformation plan; FHAct50 federal housing funds through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency; Cleveland Metropolitan School District's facilities planning for Lincoln West High School; and the designation of the neighborhood as part of the W. 25th Street Metro-

Health Corridor Federal Opportunity Zone.

The federal opportunity zone has the potential to attract unprecedented amounts of investment to the neighborhood. The Opportunity Zone included as part of the Trump tax cut legislation, allows tax deferred investment of capital gains in opportunity zones with incentives to reduce future taxes on the sale of the investment to zero if the investment in the property is for ten years or longer.

Other cities and states have taken proactive measures to offer protections to current homeowners and tenants as development increases the cost of remaining in a neighborhood. Currently, Cleveland City Council does not have any laws protecting residents from escalating rents and skyrocketing increases in property taxes resulting from development.

Rent control, rent stabilization and rent freeze programs are in place in New York City to help long term residents remain in their homes in the face of development. In Michigan, yearly property tax increases are limited to 3% to avoid overnight doubling or tripling of property taxes on long term homeowners in the wake of areas becoming hot real

estate markets.

An article by Laura Bliss, titled "How to build a new park so its neighbors benefit" in the September 11, 2019 issue of *CityLab*, outlines efforts by cities to do "greening without gentrification" and create "Parks Related Anti-Displacement Strategies (PRADS)." Bliss examines the "greening without gentrification" strategies outlined in a research report from UCLA and the University of Utah. Such strategies include: employing residents in development projects; dedicating funds for low income housing; funding for permanent affordable housing; rent control; rent freezes; foreclosure assistance; homebuyer loans; property tax freezes; land trusts; zoning measures; and density incentives.

The launching of a collaborative effort to create a comprehensive master plan for the Clark Fulton neighborhood was announced to the media at a September 17 meeting at South Branch Library on Scranton Road. Partners in the planning process include Ward 14 City Council Representative Jasmin Santana, the City of Cleveland, Metro West Community Development Organization, the Cleveland Foundation and the MetroHealth System. Groups involved in project coordination include the City Planning Commission, Land Studio and Rethink.

The planning area which focuses on the Clark Fulton neighborhood, also includes parts of the Tremont and Brooklyn Centre neighborhoods. The target area is bounded by I-71 to the east and south, I-90 to the north and W. 44th to the west.

Partners in the planning process promised that the input of residents will be an important part of developing a plan. They hope to create not only a consultant team, but a steering committee, core project team and neighborhood ambassadors and maintain lines of communication between all these components. The partners also promised several key elements will be included in the plan: a housing diversity strategy, community benefits, technology and innovation, population health, transit and streetscape improvements, youth opportunities, economic analysis, and recreation and open space.

While the planning process is laudable, and representatives of the organizations involved have strong ties to the neighborhood, without tools provided by City Council legislation to protect renters and property owners from cost prohibitive increases in rents and property taxes, their plans may be for a future neighborhood that does not include many of the current residents.



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Cleveland Vibrator Company to move facility to south side

On September 23, 2019 Cleveland Vibrator Company announced it will relocate the company's headquarters and manufacturing operations from 2828 Clinton on Cleveland's near west side to a larger facility on the city's south side, at 4544 Hinkey Industrial Parkway, according to Craig Macklin, CEO.

"Relocation of headquarters, personnel and equipment should be complete by the first of the year," said Macklin.

Cleveland Vibrator, in business since 1923 and at its current location on Clinton Avenue since 1953, is moving into a space previously occupied by Watt Printing Company. The new facility has a capacity of 54,000 square feet with a

6,000 square foot mezzanine. The company plans to occupy 37,000 square feet and lease out the remaining space. The current location on Clinton Avenue is in a 28,000 square foot building.

The company offers industrial vibration solutions for a host of industries, including mining, agriculture, pharmaceutical, food, medical, powders, foundry, aggregate, recycling and more.

According to Macklin, the company will be investing in the new space and foresees the need to add employees once the move is complete.

For more information, contact CEO Craig Macklin at (800) 228-3298 or cmacklin@clevelandvibrator.com. The Cleveland Vibrator Company Web site can be found at www.clevelandvibrator.com.

METRO WEST

continued from page one

back to live. We're collaborating with non-profits, government, major institutions, community development, philanthropy, and more importantly, community engagement and residents."

The MetroHealth master plan proposes to add housing, health, economic development, parks and other community amenities to the area.

"Shoulder to shoulder, we will work with stakeholders and government to make sure the voice of residents is at the table. Equity, empowerment, and resiliency is at the core of our mission," she added.

Ricardo León, Executive Director of Metro West Community Development Corporation, has been designated as the primary leader to engage the community. Director of City Planning Freddy Collier will play a leadership role in the planning efforts. Both León and Collier are longtime residents of Cleveland and promise to engage the community in a public conversation about the needs of residents.

León stressed the monumental importance of the MetroHealth master plan to the community, a neighborhood that has been overlooked for years and, for the first time in a long time, is drawing attraction from other parts of the city. But it's coming at a cost, according to him.

"We're a neighborhood that's sandwiched by three neighborhoods that have changed significantly in the last 20 years. Housing values have increased dramatically. What we've seen is a significant amount of displacement, whether voluntary or involuntary," he said. "Our neigh-

borhood is the last neighborhood for the working-class family. You can actually afford to live and send your kids to school here. We're at the right time and right place to bring the community together, to put aside our egos, and collaborate with each other. We understand how important it is to create a plan that speaks to our residents while encouraging investments."

A resident driven, community focused plan is central to the success of their collaboration, according to León.

"We need to tell stories about our residents ultimately changing the public perception of the neighborhood."

Gregg Zucca, Director of Economic & Community Transformation at The MetroHealth System, reminded everyone that MetroHealth has been in the community for over 150 years. Many of MetroHealth patients come from the Clark-Fulton and broader community. Transformation health care delivery, with better health outcomes, is driving the MetroHealth transformation. Health and wellness programming, focusing on the social determinants of health, with an understanding that as much as 70 to 80% of health outcomes are determined by the socio/economic factors people deal with, along with daily behavior like smoking or eating unhealthy foods.

"Housing vulnerability is one of the indicators of infant mortality according to recent research. We know that housing has a role in people's health. We found that by minor interventions like replacing the air filter or changing pillowcases, we had less emergency room visits," he said. "We're not housing experts, but we know we have a role to play in



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, September 20, 2019; Catholic Students for Peace and Justice Climate Strike for Our Common Home: Students from Greater Cleveland Catholic High Schools joined with community supporters to participate in an International Climate Strike. They are gathered around the Cleveland Sign on the upper level of Edgewater Park after marching to Edgewater Park from La Sagrada Familia Church.

that. That's why we're making direct investments in housing."

Mixed income housing without displacing people, while initiating a comprehensive approach to health will bring about major changes in the neighborhood, according to Zucca.

Director of City Planning Freddy Collier provided background on the plan itself, discussing the goals and principles they hope to achieve with the help of MetroHealth. He echoed the unprecedented nature of their collaboration, emphasizing the 'hole in the doughnut' unique scenario, flanked by Ohio City, Tremont, Brooklyn Center and Detroit Shoreway, with the opportunity to build off key assets while focusing on Mayor Frank G. Jackson's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (NTI) to target investment in fringe neighborhoods like Clark-Metro.

In 2017, Mayor Jackson leveraged \$25 million in City bond funds to attract an additional \$40 million in bank, non-profit, and philanthropic funds that are strategically targeted

towards commercial, residential, and entrepreneurial and workforce training programs. The goal of NTI is to invest in disadvantaged neighborhoods just outside growth zones and encourage the private market to return to these areas without the need of public incentives. Initial efforts are concentrated in neighborhoods that were chosen based on the result of CORE Redevelopment Strategy Study done by the Cleveland Planning Commission, according to the City of Cleveland website. The selected areas are in proximity to large, anchor institutions that are interested and committed to transforming the neighborhoods they

are located in, as well as provide job opportunities to their residents. Target areas include Circle North, Buckeye-Woodhill, Clark-Metro, East 79th Street (between Central Ave and Kinsman Rd).

"The organization structure we've put together for the project will include a steering committee, core project team, neighborhood ambassadors, and consulting team. We want to create a structure that creates a constant dialogue between individuals on all levels of the spectrum," said Collier.

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LINCOLN HEIGHTS PLANNING

continued from page 1

program focused on engaging and empowering middle and high school students with the skills to transform their neighborhood public spaces; an inflatable sculpture created from 300 yards of neon fabric and Winner of Chicago's 2013 Activate Union Station place-making competition; and Pop Up Rockwell was a one-week experiment to test "complete & green street" improvements on downtown Cleveland's Rockwell Avenue.

Robert Brown, an independent City Planning Consultant and former Director of the Cleveland City Planning Commission, along with Clifford B. Herring, a former Economist and practicing architect, will assist as part of the Seventh Hill design team for the land use study.

"Lincoln Heights is a fragmented area with the topography and free-ways. We want to try to find ways to make it more of a cohesive neighborhood," said Brown.

"We are working very strongly and directly with Tremont West Development Corporation and their relationships with the neighborhood," added Herring. "We want to know what the resident's want."

The Lincoln Heights Land Use Study came about several years ago in conversations with the Lincoln Heights Block Club. With future development on the rise, questions about how the developments projects can work together, what issues exist in the neighborhood and concerns about limited parking, a study was needed to understand future land use, according to Cory Riordan, Executive Director of Tremont West Development Corporation.

"The conversations started on a study on parking and land use, but the City of Cleveland does not allow parking as a use for the casino funds that were accessed to support the study," he said.

Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack provided the funding; City of Cleveland City Planning Commission staff member Matthew Moss worked on the planning. A year later, the land use study kicked off.

After receiving the grant funding, TWDC initiated a competitive process to identify an urban planning firm to conduct the study. Interviews were conducted and Seventh Hill was hired based on their strong proposal to "listen to the neighborhood" according to TWDC Executive Director Riordan.

"A steering committee is in place that includes many neighborhood residents as well as the developers that have land holdings in the area," said Riordan.

The steering committee includes

Khalid Hawthorne, Dharma Valentin, Randy Norfus, Sharon Harvey, Karen Connovino, Henry Senyak, Georgiann Franko, and others.

"I'm really excited to see this kind of proactive engagement especially when it comes to a lot of the issues we hear about in the neighborhood around parking and development," Councilman McCormack said to the crowd of about thirty residents, business owners, and developers packed into the second floor of the Tremont Tap House. "If you can set a plan before development happens in the neighborhood you can really guide it. We need to get ahead of the process."

Members of the Lincoln Heights Block Club continue to meet and advocate for their rights, despite a recent break with Tremont West Development Corporation that took place on April 18th when a majority of TWDC's Board of Directors cast a vote in favor of suspending the relationship between Tremont West and Lincoln Heights Block Club. The break in their relationship occurred over a disagreement on voting rights for landowners and the block club's right to self-govern.

Incidental expenses like printing handout fliers for future meetings and informing residents about the goings on in this diverse neighborhood have fallen to Chairperson Lincoln Heights Block Club Chairperson Henry Senyak. With the help of Tremont Tap House and other local businesses, Senyak has managed to weather the fallout between TWDC and LHBC.

"We didn't ask for this," he said in a phone interview with the Plain Press.

Neither Tremont West Development Corporation nor Lincoln Heights Block Club has since made attempts to settle their differences. For now, the two groups don't discuss their differences in public. The goal is to provide a forum for community engagement in the Lincoln Heights Land Use Study.

Following an overview of the study by Seventh Hill's Jurca and his associates, people were broken out into groups to further discuss their ideas and concerns for improving the neighborhood.

Greg and his wife Anna, who have lived along Scranton Road for the past 15 years, expressed their concerns that the density of population created by new multi-story apartment buildings will change the character of the neighborhood, the very reason why they moved to Lincoln Heights in the first place.

"We want to preserve the diversity of the people and character of the architecture," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDWISH

September 10, 2019: MedWish Headquarters: (L-R) KeyBank volunteers Kelly Blum and Cathy Fyffe join Steven Woodward of Optum medical group to sort respiratory supplies and equipment to support Cleveland-based MedWish in collecting medical supplies and assembling aid packages to be shipped to the Bahamas for people in need following Hurricane Dorian.

"There's going to be a lot of additional traffic with the multi-use construction in the neighborhood," added Anna. "That's the trade off. You have more density, you have more people."

A few tables away, Adam Waldbaum was talking about, "getting outside our own prejudices and our own ways, and recognizing the modern version of a thriving neighborhood..."

"Instead of grants going to study this or study that, how about grants going into an income bearing fund that pays for the increase in property taxes for those that can't afford it. Developers can be asked to contribute because as a developer, I'm not against the fabric of the neighborhood. We shouldn't be pushing people out of their homes. The ethnic diversity is why we want to be here."

Clyde Simon, Artistic Director of Convergence-Continuum Theater, Cleveland's uniquely up-close, personal and intimate theater located in a 150-year old house with a storefront on Scranton Avenue, would like to see more green space.

"We've never had a problem with parking," he said. "On our end of the street, we're the only business there. We're open just a couple hours on the evenings and weekends. We're hoping the vacant lot next to us turns into a mini-park."

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That might change depending on the outcome of the Lincoln Heights Land Use Study.

More focus groups and community meetings with Seventh Hill are scheduled for October and November. Jurca and his associates plan to have a finalized recommendation

by December 20th.

For an update on this planning process see "Lincoln Heights land use discussion continues" on page 3 of this issue of the Plain Press, visit the website at <https://plainpress.blog>, or link onto tremontwest.org for more information.

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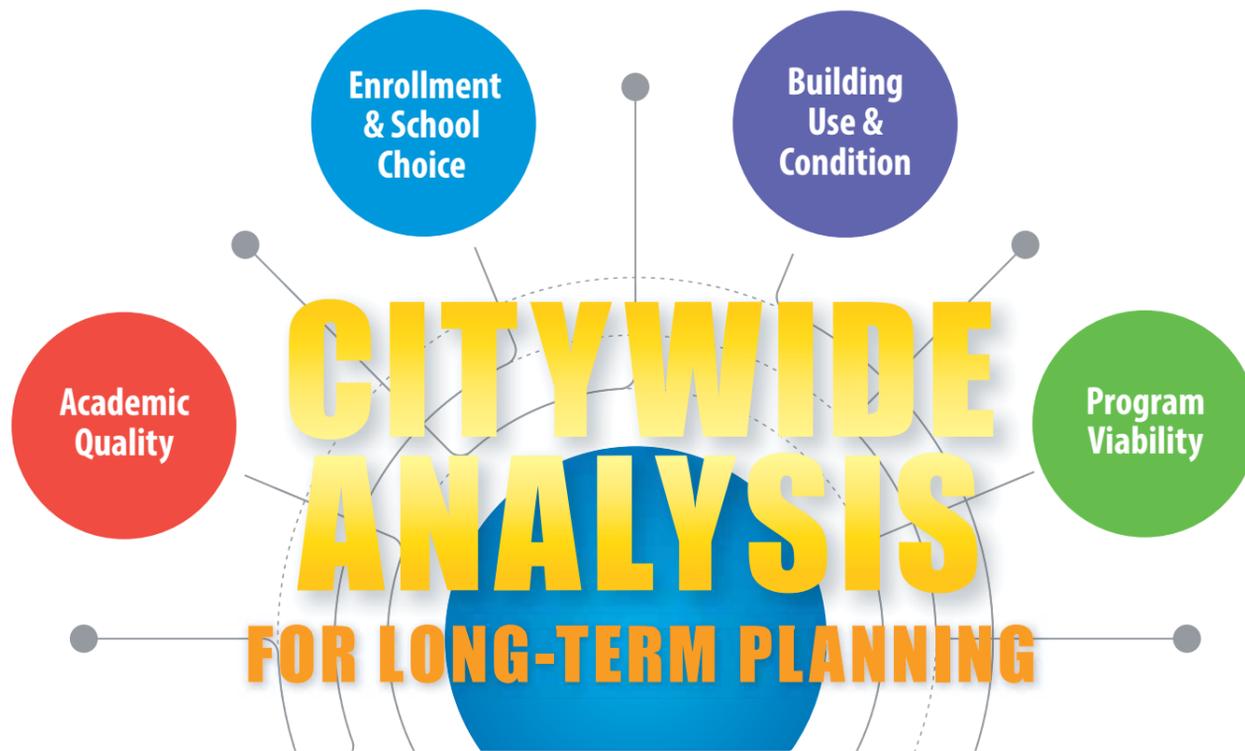
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Cleveland's population patterns have changed over the last five years, and the Board of Education wants to ensure that the taxpayers' investment in their school facilities matches the community's needs. The independent Bond Accountability Commission has also called for a fresh look, citing trends in enrollment and construction costs.

SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING SCHEDULE

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Round 1 Discussion for High Schools – Join us as we continue the long-term planning process to explore data reflecting academic quality, school enrollment and building use and conditions. NOTE – Meeting content is common for all dates.

Saturday, September 28	10:00AM - Noon	Max S. Hayes High School, 2211 W 65th St
Tuesday, October 1	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	John Adams High School, 3817 Martin Luther King Dr
Saturday, October 5	10:00AM - Noon	New Tech Collinwood, 15210 St Clair Ave
Monday, October 7	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Lincoln-West Campus, 3202 W 30th St
Wednesday, October 9	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	East Tech High School, 2439 E 55th St

Round 2 Discussion for K-8 and High Schools – CEO Eric S. Gordon will walk through emerging recommendations. NOTE – Meeting content is common for all dates.

Saturday, October 19	10:00 AM - NOON	Jane Addams Business Career Center, 2373 E 30th St
Saturday, October 19	1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	James Ford Rhodes, 5100 Biddulph Ave
Monday, October 21	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	JFK Campus, 17100 Harvard Ave
Tuesday, October 29	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Garrett Morgan, 4016 Woodbine Ave
Wednesday, October 30	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Campus International High School, 3100 Chester Ave

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